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NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Security Council the attached communication which he has received from the Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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Annex

Letter dated 16 December 1994 from the Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the Secretary-General

In its resolution 699 (1991) of 17 June 1991, the Security Council requests, inter alia, the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council progress reports on the implementation of the plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of the items specified in paragraph 12 of resolution 687 (1991). Such reports are to be submitted every six months after the adoption of resolution 699 (1991). The next report is therefore due on 17 December 1994.

Please find attached an outline of the activities carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency during the past six months under the plan for destruction, removal or rendering harmless, which you might find useful for the preparation of your report.

(Signed) Boris SEMENOV
Acting Director General

Appendix

Seventh semi-annual report (covering the period from 18 June to 17 December 1994) on the implementation by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the plan for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of items listed in paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 699 (1991) of 17 June 1991, the Security Council approved the plan submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), through the Secretary-General, for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of all items listed in paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). Resolution 699 (1991) also called for the Secretary-General to submit every six months a progress report on the implementation of the plan.

2. The first six reports were circulated by the Secretary-General to the members of the Security Council in document S/23295, dated 17 December 1991; S/24110, dated 17 June 1992; S/24988, dated 17 December 1992; S/25983, dated 21 June 1993; S/26897, dated 20 December 1993; and S/1994/793, dated 5 July 1994.

3. This is the seventh semi-annual report on the implementation by IAEA of the plan for destruction, removal or rendering harmless covering the period from 18 June to 17 December 1994. During this period, IAEA, with the assistance and cooperation of the Special Commission of the United Nations, conducted three on-site inspections in Iraq (IAEA/25, IAEA/26 and IAEA/27). Detailed reports of IAEA/25 and IAEA/26 have been distributed to the Security Council in documents S/1994/1001, dated 26 August 1994, and S/1994/1206, dated 22 October 1994. The report of IAEA/27 is in preparation.

4. In addition, as from August 1994, IAEA has established a continuous presence in Iraq as an element of its plan for ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions. IAEA will include in its semi-annual reports on the implementation of the plan summaries of the inspection activities being carried out by IAEA under the plan.

PRESENT STATUS

5. As of 17 December 1994, IAEA has carried out 27 inspection missions in Iraq. In the course of those inspections, IAEA has been able to destroy, render harmless or remove from Iraq all items which have been located and identified as associated with Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme. Should IAEA uncover any additional items not previously discovered or declared which are subject to such destruction, rendering harmless or removal from Iraq, IAEA will carry out such activities.

NUCLEAR MATERIAL

6. As previously reported to the Security Council, the task of removing all special fissionable material from Iraq has been completed with the removal of the remaining spent fuel to the Russian Federation under contract with the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy (MINATOM). As provided for in the contract, MINATOM has reprocessed the spent fuel and downgraded the content of the U-235 isotope to slightly below 20 per cent. The recovered material, amounting to a total quantity of 141 kilograms of uranium (metal equivalent), with an average enrichment of 19.8± 0.15 per cent in U-235 isotope, was shipped from the Mayak reprocessing plant to the designated storage site at Electrostal, where it arrived on 6 December 1994. On 14 and 15 December 1994, IAEA safeguards inspectors visited Electrostal to verify the material and take samples for analysis. In order to complete its contractual obligations, MINATOM will now proceed with the conditioning - through vitrification - of the radioactive wastes, including small amounts of plutonium, resulting from the reprocessing of the Iraqi fuel and to the permanent disposal of the conditioned waste in the final repository at Mayak. It is expected that this operation will be completed by March 1995.

7. With the assistance of the Brazilian authorities, IAEA has finished its verification of the completeness and has assessed the correctness of the information provided by the Iraqi authorities regarding the amount of natural uranium oxide of Brazilian origin exported to Iraq.

8. All of the nuclear material remaining in Iraq, which consists of low enriched, natural and depleted uranium, has been consolidated in one site (Location C) and will continue to be monitored by IAEA.

RELEASE OF MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT

9. In response to a request by Iraq, IAEA, in consultation with the Special Commission, agreed to the release of several hundred tons of shielding lead for use in lead-acid battery production. As this lead is to be recovered from equipment associated with Iraq's hot cells, utilized in the building 22 (LAMA Laboratories) at Tuwaitha, its continued non-proscribed use will be subject to Agency monitoring. Accordingly, IAEA's agreement to the release of the shielded cells was granted subject to the following conditions: the dismantling of the cells will be verified by IAEA; the viewing windows of the hot cells are to be stored in Tuwaitha/Al Shakili and kept available for ongoing monitoring; the lead blocks are to be moved to the Falluja factory under IAEA supervision; the melting of the lead is to be verified by IAEA; and periodic visits will be made by IAEA to the battery factory at which the lead is to be utilized.

10. A second Iraqi request, concerning the release of conventional chemical equipment to be salvaged from the destroyed Al Qaim yellow cake production plant, was disposed of in September 1994 in consultation with the Special Commission. While authorizing the release, IAEA has reserved its full right to verify the use of the equipment as part of its monitoring and verification activity.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPORT/IMPORT MONITORING MECHANISM

11. As provided for in Security Council resolution 715 (1991), IAEA, the Special Commission and the Security Council Committee established under resolution 661 (1990) are developing for the approval of the Security Council a mechanism for monitoring any future sales or supplies by other countries to Iraq of items relevant to the implementation of section C of resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions, and the plans for ongoing monitoring and verification approved under resolution 715 (1991). As a part of this exercise, IAEA is in the process of revising annex 3 of its plan, with a view to establishing a single list of items subject to reporting by Iraq and subject, at the same time, to reporting under the export/import mechanism by suppliers to Iraq.

FUTURE ACTIONS

12. Verification of the correctness and assessment of the completeness of the list updates of items submitted by the Iraqi authorities pursuant to annex 3 of the plan for ongoing monitoring and verification will continue.

13. Consultations with the Special Commission concerning additional Iraqi requests for the release of dual-use equipment and materials will also continue.